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INDEX TO MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

FIFTH SESSION OF THE SECOND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT, 1935.

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MADRAS

26th, 28th, February, 1st, 2nd, 4th, 10th to 12th, 14th to 19th March 1949.

Volume XVIII (Nos. 1–15).

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THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Saturday, the 26th February 1949.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUKHAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Shoranur-Nilambur Railway line.

* 723 *Q.*—SRI C. K. GOVINDAN NAIR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that this Government have since March 1948 given the necessary guarantee for the re-laying of the Shoranur-Nilambur Railway line; and

(*b*) if so, what the reply from the Government of India is?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"(*a*) No. The question of asking for reduction in the amount of guarantee required by the Government of India is under the active consideration of the Government.

"(*b*) Does not arise."

Participation in Anti-Hindi movement by students.

* 724 *Q.*—SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state what action the Government propose to take on the students who are getting Government scholarships and stipends if they take part in Anti-Hindi movement?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"No cases of any students in receipt of Government scholarship or stipend taking part in the Anti-Hindi movement has been brought to the notice of Government. If such cases are brought to the notice of Government, suitable action will be taken."

SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI:—"Are the Government aware that a good number of students who are getting scholarships in the Government College, Kumbakonam, and other colleges are taking an active part in the Anti-Hindi movement? What action do they propose to take against them?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"The Hon. Minister has already answered that, if specific cases are brought to the notice of the Government, suitable action will be taken."

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"We cannot take any action on general allegations. If any particular case is pointed out to us, the Government will certainly go into the matter."

SRI L. N. GOPALASWAMI:—"May I know whether any action has been taken against teachers who take part in the Anti-Hindi movement?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"Certainly, Sir, if it is brought to the notice of the Government. Certain Professors in certain colleges were taking an active part in the Anti-Hindi movement. The matter was taken up with the managements and the latter have promised that nothing like that would happen in future."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is there any objection for the students to take part in the Anti-Hindi agitation by peaceful and lawful means?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"If it is a matter of mere academic discussion for understanding the various problems, the students are always allowed to discuss any matter, whether current or past. But if it is a matter of taking such an active part as will interfere with discipline or with peace, then the Government must interfere and set things right."

SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI:—"May I know whether Government have taken any action against students who set fire to the hostel at Kuttalam in connexion with the Anti-Hindi movement?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"This was a subject-matter of a question I answered some time ago. I am not at present able to give any more specific information without notice."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"In the opinion of the Government, is this Anti-Hindi movement a political movement or a cultural movement?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"We feel that it is a political movement. If any party or any people have a different opinion over this matter, it is always open to them to put their point of view before the public. But, as things go on at present, strikes and similar actions disturb peace, and not only that, they interfere with the studies of the children in the schools. Therefore, the Government are against it. But if anybody has got any views on any matter, he is always free to give expression to his views."

Compensation to be paid to the Madras Electric Supply Corporation, Limited.

* 725 *Q.*—SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have fixed the total amount of compensation to be paid to the Madras Electric Supply Corporation, Limited; and

(*b*) if so, what the amount is?

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land revenue has been ordered in ryotwari areas, will the Government consider some means of reducing the land revenue in the zamindari areas also? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—" There is an Act already passed by this House and that is being implemented."

Construction of a masonry retaining wall to the Palar river spring channel.

[* 734 *Q.*—MR. SPEAKER:—" The hon. Member is not in his place. The answer will be printed in the proceedings."]

MR. T. J. M. WILSON: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is a proposal to construct a masonry retaining wall to the Palar River Spring Channel of Ozhalur village in the Chingleput district; and

(*b*) whether it has been sanctioned?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—" (*a*) & (*b*) Yes."

Alleged atrocities committed by members of the Black-Shirt and Dravida Kazhagam.

* 735 *Q.*—SRI A. SUBRAHMANYAM: Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any mahazar alleging certain atrocities committed by the members of the Black-Shirt and Dravida Kazhagam;

(*b*) if so, what action the Government have taken on the same; and

(*c*) what preventive measures the Government have under contemplation?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI (on behalf of the Hon. the Premier):—" (*a*) The Government received a mahazar from the Salem Brahmana Seva Sangam in December last making certain allegations against the members of the Dravida Kazhagam.

" (*b*) The allegations contained in it were vague and no action could be taken on it.

" (*c*) The Government do not contemplate taking any special measures in this connexion."

SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI:—" As a preventive measure, will the Government consider the desirability of keeping the Black-Shirt prisoners in one of the North Indian jails so that they may feel the necessity of learning Hindi? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" Mere transport of prisoners from this Presidency to North India where the climate may not suit them is not quite desirable."

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DR. S. SUBRAHMANYA AYYAR:—"May I ask whether the Government will not take the necessary steps to stop the vile attack directed against the Brahmans in *Viduthalai* and similar papers?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"All these articles are certainly examined by the Government and if any action should be taken against them, that would have been taken already. But they do not come under the purview of the law and we are unable to take any action against them."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—"While the Deputy Prime Minister was in Madras, he made a pointed reference to certain writings in the local papers and said that the Government should take strong action to put down such writings. May I know to which papers he made reference?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"If necessary, we would make a reference to him and get the names of the papers which he had in mind."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Am I to understand that these yellow journals are being conducted by the Black-Shirts?" (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Not all of them, Sir."

Supply of electricity to village wells in Pogalur.

* 736 *Q.*—SRI R. KUPPUSWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) what steps were taken by the Electricity department to carry out the orders in Memo. C.S. No. 6627/25825/47, dated 20th October 1947, of the Superintending Engineer, Pykara Electricity System, Coimbatore, to supply electricity to village wells in Pogalur in Avanashi taluk after receipt of the security deposit;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the village farmers of Belladi, Annur and Kumarapalayam (Avanashi taluk), who had applied for current subsequently have already been supplied with electric power to their wells;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the village munsif of Pogalur village has appealed to the Premier of Madras; and

(*d*) what action is proposed to be taken on the petition sent to the Premier of Madras, regarding the supply of current to the 43 wells in the village of Pogalur in Avanashi taluk?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"(*a*) Necessary agreements have been taken by the officers of the Electricity department from the parties in the village to whom electric supply has been permitted and the scheme will be taken up for execution in the order of priority of similar schemes pending execution in the area.

Alleged police excesses on Harijans of Antervedipalem.

* 796 *Q.*—SRI B. S. MURTHY: Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the article on page 1 of the "Vyavasaya Cooly," dated 19th September 1948, edited by Sri K. Shanmukham, M.L.A., about the police excesses on the Harijans of Antervedipalem firka in the Razole taluk; and

(*b*) if so, what the truth in the matter is?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI (on behalf of the Hon. the Premier):—"(*a*) Yes.

"(*b*) The Government have enquired into the matter and consider that the allegations are all baseless."

SRI B. S. MURTHY:—"Sir, this paper is one of the very few organs working for the redress of the grievances of the Harijans and it is edited by a responsible member of this House. May I know, Sir, whether the Government have taken into confidence the editor of this paper in order to satisfy themselves that the allegations were wrong?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"It does not matter who the editor is and what it represents. Regarding the allegation, we have made enquiries and we have found that the allegation was baseless."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know what is the proper channel through which the Government have been making enquiries; is it only the official and departmental channel or unofficial channels also; if so, which unofficial channel has been kind enough to make the enquiries?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I think the hon. Member knows the usual channels through which Government makes enquiries in such things; there is no unofficial agency just now through which we can find out the truth and they have asked the District Magistrate to give a report about the allegation and he says that the allegation is baseless."

SRI B. S. MURTHY:—"Is it not a fact, Sir, that the present Inspector of Police has been brought there in order to harass the poor unfortunate agricultural labourers?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I do not know who the Inspector is that was posted to Razole taluk and whether he was posted specially to oppress the agricultural labourers."

Medium of instruction in the Universities.

* 797 *Q.*—BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any direction has been received from the Central Government that within the next five years the Universities should so shape their studies that the medium of instruction need no longer be English; and

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(*b*) if the answer is in the affirmative, whether he has consulted the Universities and educational experts in regard to this matter?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—(*a*) In pursuance of the recommendations of the Committee on Medium of Instruction, the Government of India have requested the Provincial Governments and the Universities in the Provinces to take steps to replace English as the medium of instruction at the University stage of education by gradual stages during the next five years and to introduce the language of the State or Province or Region as the medium of instruction and examination, and, that during the transition period, English language, not as a literature, but as a language should be continued as a compulsory language in the higher courses. The matter has also been referred to the Universities Commission.

"(*b*) Yes."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"May I know what are the views expressed by the Universities of Madras, Annamalai and Andhra in regard to this matter?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I am afraid the Universities have not sent their replies. *Ad hoc* Committees have been appointed by them to consider these matters."

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"Is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that the introduction of regional languages will cut against the unity of this country?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"It is a matter which is under the consideration of the Universities Commission. This question was raised in the general discussion of the Budget by the hon. Leader of the Independent Party and in my reply to it to-morrow, I propose to deal with it in detail."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Do the Government realise that it will be a short-sighted policy to oust English hurriedly from the University and are they aware of the fact that it will take not five years but ten to fifteen years to equip the colleges with suitable books in the local languages of the Province?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"As I told you, Sir, this matter is before the Universities Commission and whatever I have to say, I shall take the opportunity to go into the matter during my reply to the general discussion of the Budget."

Bill to amend the Malabar Tenancy Act.

* 798 *Q.*—SRI M. P. GOVINDA MENON: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state when the Government propose to introduce the Bill to amend the Malabar Tenancy Act?

SRI P. GOVINDA MENON:—"Are the Government aware that there is no land available in my district of Malabar for being given to these political sufferers, including the hon. Member, Srimathi Kuttimalu Amma?" (Laughter.)

Knowledge of Hindustani as additional qualification for Government service.

* 874 *Q.*—BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN: Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state whether there is any proposal before the Government to amend the rules so as to make the knowledge of Hindustani an additional qualification for Government service?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR (on behalf of the Hon. the Premier):—"Yes. The matter is being examined."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"May I know whether the knowledge required in Hindustani would be in two scripts or in one script and if knowledge only of one script is required, which script it is?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"The proposal has not been finalised yet and it is being examined. Since it is in the stage of examination, I am unable to give any more details at present about the matter."

Pay of Hindustani Pandits with oriental title.

* 875 *Q.*—SRI K. LINGA RAJU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Hindustani Pandits with oriental title employed in secondary schools are given the same scale of pay as other language pandits;

(*b*) whether pandits and munshis have been given revised scales of pay in 1947;

(*c*) whether the same scales of pay were given to Hindustani pandits also; and

(*d*) if not, why not?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"(*a*) No.

"(*b*) Yes.

"(*c*) No.

"(*d*) Proposals to give the same status to Hindustani teachers as other language teachers are amongst Part II schemes for 1949–50. It is proposed to give effect to these from 1st January 1949."

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